

REMARKS

Claims 2 and 3-32 are pending in this application.

Claims 17-32 stand allowed.

Claims 1, 2, and 4-14 were rejected.

Claims 3, 15, and 16 were objected to.

Claims 3, 15 and 17 are independent claims.

Information Disclosure Statement

For the Examiner's information, an IDS has been filed dated April 25, 2005.

Foreign Priority

The indication that the foreign priority documents were received and placed in the file is noted.

Information Disclosure Statement

The indication that the Information Disclosure Statement filed September 24, 2003 was considered is noted.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 3 and 15-16 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all the limitations of the base and any intervening claims. These claims, as necessary, have been amended and are now considered patentable. The Examiner is requested to withdraw the objection.

For the reason set forth above, it is considered that the base claim 3 is patentable.

Reply to Rejections

Claims 1, 2, and 4-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Shinya et al. JP 2001-268613 (hereinafter Shinya). Claim 1 has been canceled and claims 2 and 4-14 now depend on allowed claim 3 directly or through intervening claims and should be allowable.

Additional Art Cited

In Section 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner cited additional art. As this art has not been applied, no comments are considered necessary.

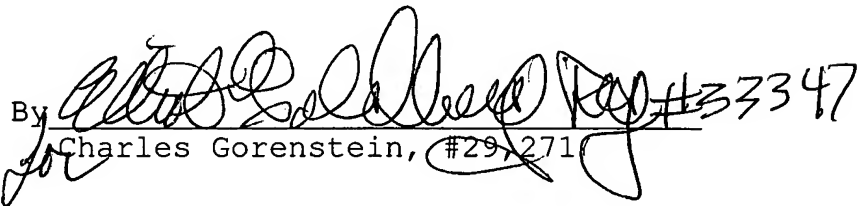
Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Elliot A. Goldberg (Reg. No. 33,347) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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